Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 13, 21, 25, and 30 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of incrementally refining queries and updating query results without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of query submission, comprising:

defining one or more query related character patterns that do not include an explicit indicator of query submission;

monitoring entry of query defining characters by a user to detect entry of a defined query related character pattern;

providing the user with one or more suggested query refinement options each time a defined query related character pattern is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission, wherein the one or more suggested query refinement options includes at least one of a synonym suggestion for <u>replacing</u> the detected defined query related character pattern <u>in a query</u> or a broadening suggestion for <u>replacing</u> the detected defined query related character pattern <u>in the query to broaden the query</u>; and

providing the user with an updated query result each time a defined query related character pattern is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising tracking queries entered by one or more users and adjusting the suggested query refinement options based on a history of queries previously entered by the one or more users.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising tracking results selected by one or more users and adjusting the suggested query refinement options based on a history of results previously selected by the one or more users.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising tracking results selected by one or more users and adjusting an order of the updated query result list based on a history of results previously selected by the one or more users.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a visual indicator to the user when an updated query result list is provided to the user.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein one defined query related character pattern is a string of characters followed by a space.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein one query related character pattern is a string of characters followed by a predefined time delay before additional characters are entered.

8-9. (Canceled).

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a user input that allows the user to adjust the query related character patterns.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising changing the defined query related character patterns in response to a change in a connection speed

at a client-server connection used to provide the user with updated query results,
wherein the query related character patterns are defined to occur more frequently as the
connection speed increases.

12. (Original) Computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions
for performing the method of claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of incrementally refining queries and updating query
results without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of query submission,
comprising:

      providing a user with one or more query refinement options as the user enters
query defining characters, wherein the one or more query refinement options includes at
least one of a synonym suggestion for <u>replacing</u> the query defining characters <u>in a</u>
<u>query</u> or a broadening suggestion for <u>replacing</u> the query defining characters <u>in the</u>
<u>query to broaden the query</u>;

      detecting entry of a query defining word by the user without requiring the user
to provide the explicit indicator of query submission; and

      providing the user with an updated query result each time entry of a query
defining word is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of
query submission, wherein the query defining word includes a string of characters
followed by a predefined time delay before additional characters are entered by the
user.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising tracking queries entered by
one or more users and adjusting the suggested query refinement options based on a
history of queries previously entered by the one or more users.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising tracking results selected by one or more users and adjusting the suggested query refinement options based on a history of results previously selected by the one or more users.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising tracking results selected by one or more users and adjusting an order of the updated query result list based on a history of results previously selected by the one or more users.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein one defined query related character pattern is a string of characters followed by a space.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the updated query result includes results from a user hard drive, an intranet server, and an internet server.

20. (Original) Computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 13.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of incrementally refining queries and updating query results without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of query submission, comprising:

      providing a user with auto-complete alternatives as the user enters query defining characters;

      detecting entry of a completed query defining word by the user;

providing the user with a query result list each time a query defining word is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission;

providing the user with query refinement options related to the query defining word without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission, wherein the query refinement options include at least one of a synonym suggestion for replacing the query defining word in a query or a broadening suggestion for replacing the query defining word in the query to broaden the query;

determining whether the user selects a provided query refinement option;

providing the user with an updated query result list when it is determined that the user has selected a provided query refinement option; and

providing a visual indicator to the user each time the updated query result list is provided to the user.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the updated query result list includes result listings from a user hard drive, an intranet server, and an internet server.

24. (Original) Computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 21.

25. (Currently Amended) In a computer system including a display, a user input facility, and an application for presenting a user interface on the display, a user interface that updates query results without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of query submission comprising:

a query entry text box for entering query defining characters;

a query refinement option list of user selectable query refinement options that is incrementally updated as a query is entered into the query entry text box without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission, wherein the user selectable query refinement options include at least one of a synonym suggestion for <u>replacing</u> the query defining characters <u>in a query</u> or a broadening suggestion for <u>replacing</u> the query defining characters <u>in the query to broaden the query</u>;

a query result list that is incrementally updated as a query is entered into the query entry text box without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission; and

a visual indicator that indicates when the query result list is updated.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Original) The user interface of claim 25 further comprising a user selectable search icon for manually executing a query defined by characters in the query entry text box.

28. (Original) The user interface of claim 25 wherein the query refinement option list is semi-transparent.

29. (Original) The user interface of claim 25 wherein the query result list is animated for a predetermined period of time after the query result list is updated.

30. (Currently Amended) A system for incrementally refining queries and updating query results without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of query submission, comprising:

a user input device enabling input of query defining text characters;

a display;

a data content that is searchable;

a network connection for accessing at least a portion of the data content;

a memory in which machine instructions are stored; and

a processor that is coupled to the user input device, to the display, to the data content, to the network connection, and to the memory, the processor executing the machine instructions to carry out a plurality of functions, including:

defining one or more query related character patterns that do not include an explicit indicator of query submission;

monitoring entry of query defining characters by a user to detect entry of a defined query related character pattern;

searching the data content and providing the user with an updated query result when a defined query related character pattern is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission;

providing the user with query refinement options related to the detected defined query related character pattern without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission, wherein the query refinement options include at least one of a synonym suggestion for replacing the detected defined query related character pattern in a query or a broadening suggestion for replacing the detected defined query related character pattern in the query to broaden the query; and

changing the defined query related character patterns in response to a change in a connection speed at the network connection, wherein the query related character patterns are defined to occur more frequently as the connection speed increases.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30 wherein the searchable database resides on one or more remote computers and data used to define the one or more query related character patterns resides on a user terminal.

32. (Original) The system of claim 30 wherein the data content includes data stored on a user hard drive, data stored on an intranet server, and data stored on an internet server.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the synonym suggestion further includes a synonym icon and wherein the broadening suggestion further includes a broadening icon.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the synonym suggestion further includes a synonym icon and wherein the broadening suggestion further includes a broadening icon.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the synonym suggestion further includes a synonym icon and wherein the broadening suggestion further includes a broadening icon.

36. (Previously presented) The user interface of claim 25 wherein the synonym suggestion further includes a synonym icon and wherein the broadening suggestion further includes a broadening icon.

37. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30 wherein the synonym suggestion further includes a synonym icon and wherein the broadening suggestion further includes a broadening icon.